

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend the claims as follows. This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1 - 20 (Canceled)

21. (Previously Presented) A device comprising:  
a gripping element of an appliance door movable relative to the appliance door during a door movement of the appliance door, the gripping element adapting its movement to the movement of the hand of a user.
22. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 21, wherein the gripping element is movably mounted at least largely independently of a position of the appliance door.
23. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 21 and further comprising a stabilizing unit for stabilizing the gripping element in at least one position.
24. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 23, wherein the stabilizing unit stabilizes the gripping element in at least three positions.
25. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 23, wherein the stabilizing unit includes at least one locating unit.
26. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 25, wherein the locating unit includes at least one ribbed partial area.

27. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 23, wherein the stabilizing unit includes a spring-loaded locating element.
28. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 23, wherein the stabilizing unit stabilizes the gripping element in a plurality of locating positions.
29. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 21, wherein the gripping element is mountable on the appliance door so that it can pivot about a pivoting axis.
30. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 29, wherein the pivoting axis runs at least substantially parallel to a pivoting axis of the appliance door.
31. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 23 and further comprising means for releasing the stabilizing unit in at least one position of the appliance door.
32. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 21 and further comprising means for releasing a locating connection during a closing movement of the appliance door.
33. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 21 and further comprising a restoring means to automatically move the gripping element into a base position when the appliance door is closed.
34. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 21, wherein the gripping element comprises at least two independent degrees of freedom of movement.

35. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 21 and further comprising a sensor unit for sensing a movement characteristic of the gripping element.
36. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 35, wherein the sensor unit comprises switching means which can be switched by means of the gripping element.
37. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 21 and further comprising a sensor unit for sensing a user characteristic.
38. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 35 and further comprising a control unit provided for processing a signal of the sensor unit.
39. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 21 and further comprising a drive element for driving the movement of the gripping element.
40. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 21 and further comprising a damping element for damping a movement of the gripping element.
41. (New) A household appliance comprising:
  - a chamber having an opening;
  - an appliance door pivotable about a pivoting axis to close the opening of the chamber; and
  - a gripping element coupled to the appliance door,wherein the gripping element is movable relative to the appliance door during a door movement of the appliance door,  
wherein a movement of the gripping element adapts to a movement of a hand of a user that is moving the appliance door, and

wherein the gripping element is movably mounted at least largely independently of a position of the appliance door.